



Changing Lives — Christ-Centered Materials in the Hmong Language

Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries— \$70,208

2021–2023 Biennium
Mission Goal:

\$2,150,000

Mission Grant #28

\$70,208

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An outreach ministry to the Hmong people began fifteen years ago at St. Paul Lutheran in Merced, California. Their goal is to “*prepare God’s people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up.*” (Ephesians 4:12). They are building up the body of Christ through leadership training, church planting, and mentoring pastors, vicars, servant leaders, and Christians who participate in outreach ministry to the Hmong people. Outreach ministry includes the Hmong Language School, participation in Hmong New Year’s festival, and providing Christ centered resources in their own language.

The Hmong people came to the United States as refugees after serving alongside the United States during the Vietnam War. They settled in California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Eighty-five percent of the Hmong people are animists. In their religion, Hmong Spiritism, they believe spiritual powers are inherited in all things, living and non-living. They practice shamanism and praise the spirits of their ancestors but not the Creator. They offer animal sacrifices. People who are influenced by Spiritism are afflicted, oppressed, and live in constant fear. Only God’s grace and mercy, through faith in Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit can break Satan’s bondage.

The Hmong Language School reaches out to the Hmong community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language. A strong cultural pressure exists for all family members to speak and read the language. The Hmong Language School teaches Hmong to speak and read their own language. The teaching materials are Biblical materials translated into Hmong. The students learn to speak and read and then share with older family members in their home. The Word spreads to the extended family

The tradition of soul calling and celebrating the New Year has been practiced for centuries by the Hmong. It is believed that a person’s soul may have wandered off, gotten lost, or could not find its way back to unite with its own body during the past year. During the New Year’s celebration, the soul is called to return to the body. The festival celebration brings thousands of Hmong together. The Hmong Christians in Merced sponsor a booth at the festival and share Jesus with the people. They distribute Hmong Christian materials including Divine Drama, Arch Books, Children’s Garden Bible Stories, the Small Catechism, and information about the Hmong Language School and its activities.

There are also large populations of Hmong people in Minnesota and Wisconsin. LCMS churches in these states are asking for assistance in implementation of the Hmong Language School programs. With money from this grant Hmong Outreach, started in Merced, California, can expand to other congregations and districts.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants

